

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

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McGarvey 202/343-5634

### STATUS REVIEW OF EASTERN MARTEN

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that it is undertaking a review of the status of the eastern subspecies of the American marten (Martes americana americana) to determine whether that animal should be proposed for inclusion on the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife.

The review resulted from a petition by the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to list the eastern marten as endangered.

The American marten is a slender-bodied, carnivorous mammal, larger than a weasel with soft fine fur. It is golden brown to almost black. It is a solitary animal, active day and night. It is largely arboreal and tends to travel in an overlapping series of small trees. This animal is agile and graceful and feeds on a variety of life including carrion, insects, and fruit. Squirrels are its main prey in many areas.

The eastern marten once occurred in North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Because of habitat loss and fur trapping, the marten disappeared from most of its range, and today is restricted mostly to northern New York and New England, with a few surviving in the Upper Great Lakes region.

Persons with information that may assist in determining whether the marten should be listed as endangered or threatened are invited to write to the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. All comments should be in by November 24, 1976.

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